

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 An automated authentication handling system for use by clients on a network comprising:
2 a plurality of application servers connected to said network, each requiring authentication
3 for access; and

4 an authentication server adapted to authenticate at least one of said clients and establish a
5 trusted communication link for access by an authenticated user to at least one of said application
6 servers.

1 2. The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said authentication
2 server includes:

3 an identification engine configured to maintain collections of session assignments for
4 accessing said application servers, each of said session assignment collections being associated
5 with a client identifier.

1 3. The automated authentication handling system of claim 2 wherein said identification
2 engine is adapted to receive client identifiers from said clients to establish authenticated users
3 and responsive thereto to provide a user interface to access said application servers according to
4 said associated session assignments.

1 4. The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said authentication
2 server includes:

3 a communication initiator engine configured to establish a trusted communication link
4 between said authenticated users and said application servers.

1 5. The automated authentication handling system of claim 3 wherein said authentication
2 server includes:

3 a communication initiator engine configured to establish a trusted communication link
4 defined to one of said session assignments between said authenticated users and said application
5 servers.

1 6. The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said session
2 assignments include data fields selected from the group consisting of session timeout and
3 application access level.

1 7. The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said client identifiers
2 include a user id and password.

01 8. The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said authentication
02 server includes a processor under the control of software to:

03 receive an authentication signal from said client;
04 provide an application access interface to said client in response to said
05 authentication signal; and

06 establish a trusted communication link between said client and a application
07 server selected from said application access interface.

08 9. A method for automatically authenticating a client for a plurality of application servers
09 comprising the steps of:

10 providing an authentication server;
11 identifying clients for access to said application servers by said authentication server; and
12 establishing a trusted communication link between at least one of said clients and at least
13 one of said application servers.

14 10. The method of claim 9 wherein said identifying step includes:
15 providing a session parameters for each of said identified clients for at least one of said
16 application servers.

- 4 11. The method of claim 9 wherein said identifying step includes:
5 providing a user interface to said identified clients for accessing said application servers.
- 1 12. The method of claim 10 wherein said establishing step includes:
2 using said session parameters to establish said trusted communication link.
- 1 13. The method of claim 11 wherein said user interface includes a listing of application
2 servers and said establishing step is initiated following a selection of an application server by a
3 user from said user interface.

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